

Message Text

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R 062358Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: STATUS OF US NEWSMEN IN NIGERIA

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES FROM EMBASSY EMPLOYEE BULLETIN (PAW-PAW, DECEMBER 11) THAT ASSOCIATED PRESS IS CLOSING ITS LAGOS BUREAU. SINCE FMG HAS REFUSED GRANT RESIDENT VISA FOR NEW CORRESPONDENT FROM NEW YORK TIMES, VOA CORRESPONDENT HAS BECOME OR WILL SOON BECOME ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF US NEWS-GATHERING ORGANIZATION BASED IN NIGERIA, AND HE WAS RECENTLY DETAINED FOR TWO HOURS BY NIGERIAN POLICE.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS. ARE THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS-- AND THE FAILURE SO FAR OF THE FMG TO GRANT A VISA TO WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT KAREN DE YOUNG (LAGOS 11626, 12650)--IN ANY WAY RELATED, AND WHAT ARE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS?

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3. HOW MANY CORRESPONDENTS FROM COMMUNIST AND OTHER
NATIONS ARE NOW BASED IN NIGERIA, AND ARE THEY ENCOUNTER-
ING SAME DIFFICULTIES AS US CORRESPONDENTS?

KISSINGER

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